

Cp365  
N87c4

CENTRAL PRISON  
NORTH CAROLINA'S MAXIMUM  
SECURITY INSTITUTION



THE LIBRARY OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF  
NORTH CAROLINA



THE COLLECTION OF  
NORTH CAROLINIANA

---

Cp365  
N87c4



CP 365  
N87c4

# ENTRAL PRISON

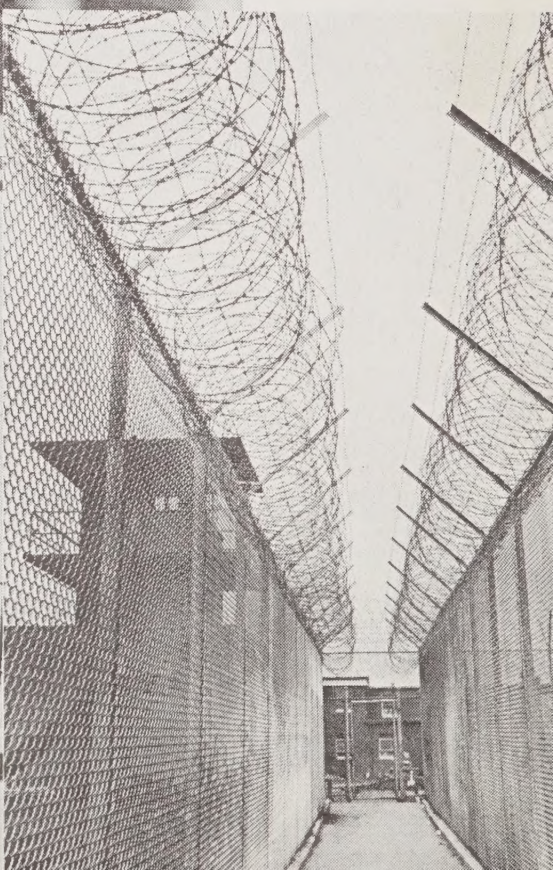
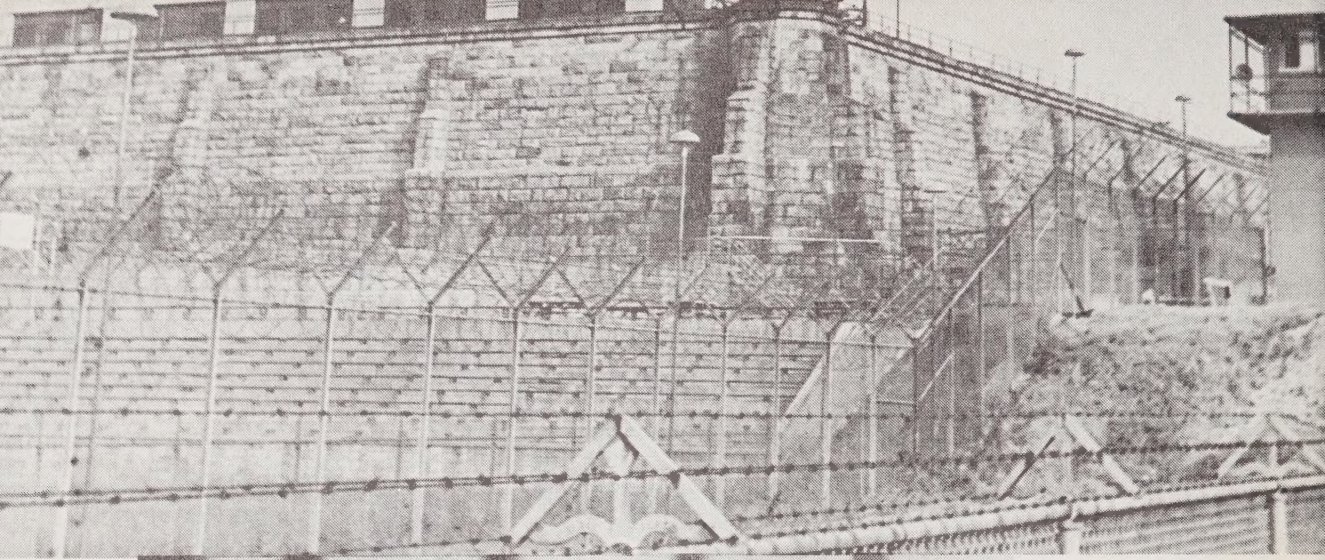
D L. JONES, Secretary  
Department of Correction



RALPH D. EDWARDS, Director  
Division of Prisons

JAMES E. HOLSHOUSER, JR., Governor







CENTRAL PRISON

NORTH CAROLINA'S MAXIMUM  
SECURITY INSTITUTION

*From the outside of its massive walls,  
North Carolina's Central Prison in Raleigh  
looks like a dark, feudal fortress, ancient  
and dreary, a place certain to have damp  
dungeons and loathesome torture chambers.....*

THIS PROJECT WAS SUPPORTED BY A GRANT  
AWARDED BY THE NORTH CAROLINA COMMITTEE  
ON LAW AND ORDER PURSUANT TO THE OMNIBUS  
CRIME CONTROL AND SAFE STREETS ACT OF  
1968 AS AMENDED.

*This depressing first impression of the prison's outdated architecture is offset somewhat by abundant evidence that new, modern buildings are being erected beside the medieval towers of the State's oldest correctional institution.*

*A guided tour of the State's only maximum security institution reveals that first impressions can, indeed, be greatly misleading. Inside Central Prison's Gothic shell of time-worn bricks and stone, major renovations have transformed its antiquated buildings into modern medical and psychological diagnostic and treatment centers for prisoner classification and physical and mental health care, security facilities and inmate housing, and prison enterprise plants. Complete renovation has not yet been authorized and funded by the General Assembly, nor have all the institution's prisoner maintenance, rehabilitation, and security facilities been improved, upgraded, and expanded sufficiently to meet all the growing pressures of a constantly increasing prison population.*



*But important first steps have been taken. A master plan for gradual improvement and expansion of the physical plant is being designed. Medical and psychological services are being improved by the construction of new facilities, and the addition of new medical and dental equipment, and trained personnel. More comprehensive inmate educational, vocational, and recreational programs are being implemented.*

*Further explanation of Central Prison's purposes, functions, operations, programs, and procedures is contained in the answers to the following questions most visitors ask about the State's largest correctional institution.*



pg 4970



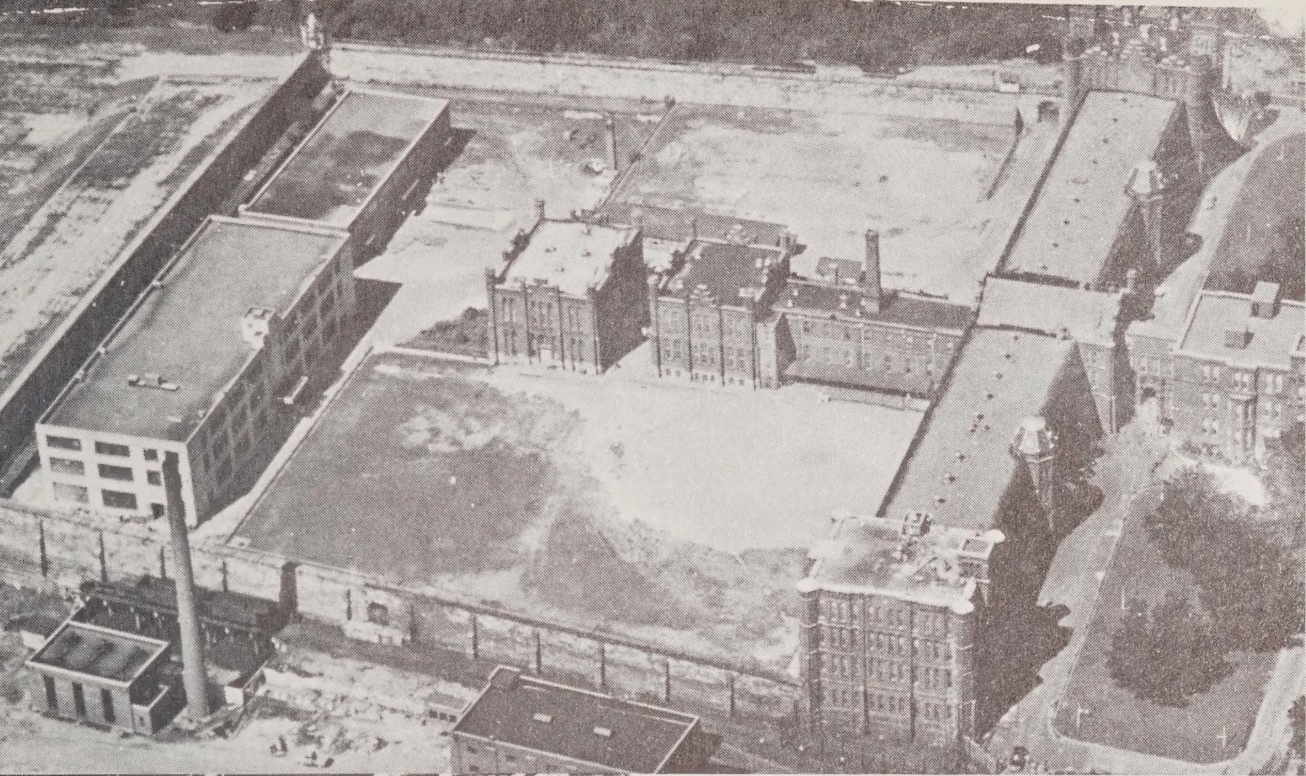
## *WHEN AND HOW WAS CENTRAL PRISON BUILT AND WHEN WAS IT ENLARGED TO ITS PRESENT SIZE?*

### *Construction of the North Carolina State*

*Penitentiary (Central Prison) was begun in 1869 and completed in 1883 when the main buildings and walls were finished. All labor was performed by inmates. The design, predominantly Gothic, is similar to that of a medieval European castle with battlemented towers, crestings, parapets, buttresses, and arched windows. The foundation and tower walls, together with the enclosing walls (encompassing 23 acres) are constructed of huge blocks of granite quarried from an adjoining site (now filled in to form the parking lot in front of the East Gate). The clay for the millions of bricks came from nearby Cary Farm. The main building is 590 feet long. The protecting walls are 20 feet high, four feet wide at the top, 16 feet wide at ground level, and extend downward 15 feet to their foundation.*

*Located at strategic points along the wall are eleven towers, manned by armed guards day and night. Further protection is afforded by high tension wires which circle the inside and outside of the high walls and also are the main source of electricity into the prison.*





CENTRAL PRISON - AT THE  
TURN OF THE CENTURY.





## WHAT TYPES OF PRISONERS ARE CONFINED IN CENTRAL PRISON?

The exclusively male population of Central is of two general types: transient and assigned. The transient population consists of safekeepers (persons confined for "safekeeping" while their cases are on appeal), presentence diagnostics there for testing and psychological evaluation before final sentence is passed by the Court, patients of clinics in the mental health building and prison hospital, and new admissions. The assigned population is comprised of inmates serving lengthy sentences and approximately 350 close or maximum custody inmates with the ability and desire to work.

Most felons with a prison sentence of three years or more come to Central Prison for diagnosis and classification, including physical examination, diagnostic services, psychological testing, etc., conducted during the 12-14 days it takes to process each new inmate and arrive at his proper custody classification and assignment either to Central Prison or one of the Division of Prisons' field units or institutions.

A Central Classification Committee makes a



a determination of each inmate's future custody classification and institution or unit assignment based on the projections of the diagnosticians and case analysts and the needs, aims, goals, and desires of the convicted offender.

#### HOW ARE INMATES ASSIGNED TO HOUSING?

Inmates are assigned to cell blocks A-J by custody classification and space availability, with two exceptions: the more adverse inmate population, men who are potentially harmful to society, custodial staff, or other prisoners are housed together in I and J Cell Blocks; and prisoners sentenced to receive capital punishment are located together in single cell accommodations in Cell Block F, sometimes known as "Death Row."

There are two separate wings of the institution which are used to divide the prison population. The East Wing contains the prison hospital and mental health facilities, a gymnasium-auditorium and other recreation facilities and cellblocks where inmates are allowed, under supervision, some freedom of movement. The West Wing houses inmates who are assigned there for security reasons or because they have prison industry work assignments. These inmates are not allowed the same recreation privileges or



freedom of movement as East Wing inmates, but they have the use of two recreation yards.

### WHAT MEDICAL AND PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO INMATES?

The hospital at Central Prison is a clean, recently constructed, well-managed health facility. Every medical specialty available to a free man is available to the patients in this hospital. This is made possible through the use of full-time staff physicians and a comprehensive consultant arrangement with 27 medical specialists with expertise in neurosurgery, orthopedics, dermatology, internal medicine, etc. Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, a professional nursing staff cares for inpatients. A dental clinic at Central Prison hospital is the primary source for dental care for inmates throughout the State.

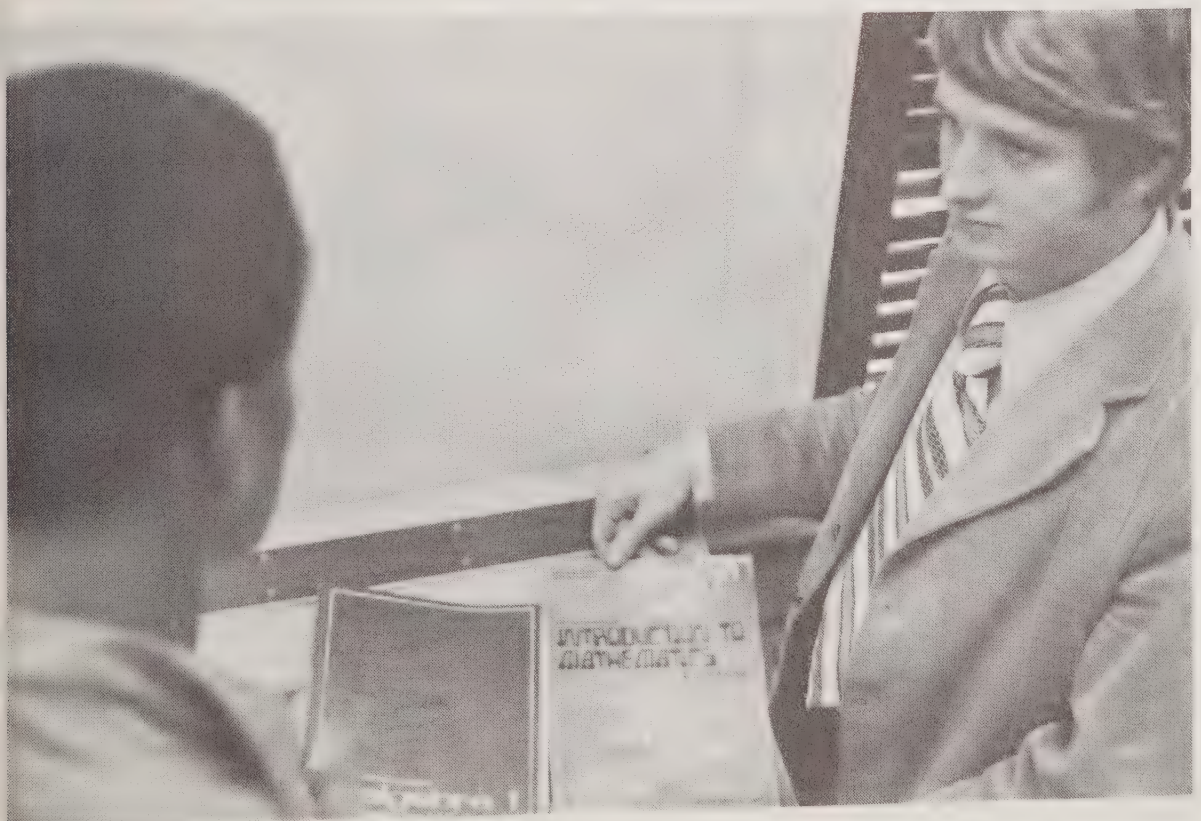
Mental health needs for the State's prison population are met primarily by the mental health facility at Central Prison. Psychiatric patients requiring hospitalization are, after appropriate court action, admitted to Dorcethea Dix Hospital.



*WHAT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR INMATES WHO WANT TO FURTHER THEIR ACADEMIC EDUCATIONS?*

*Four school teachers, certified by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, conduct Adult Basic Education classes for interested learners and help inmate students prepare to take the General Educational Development Test for their high school equivalency degrees. College correspondence Courses are also available through the Outreach to Inmates program sponsored by the Extension Division of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.*

*A 17,000-volume library is available to inmates for study and entertainment.*

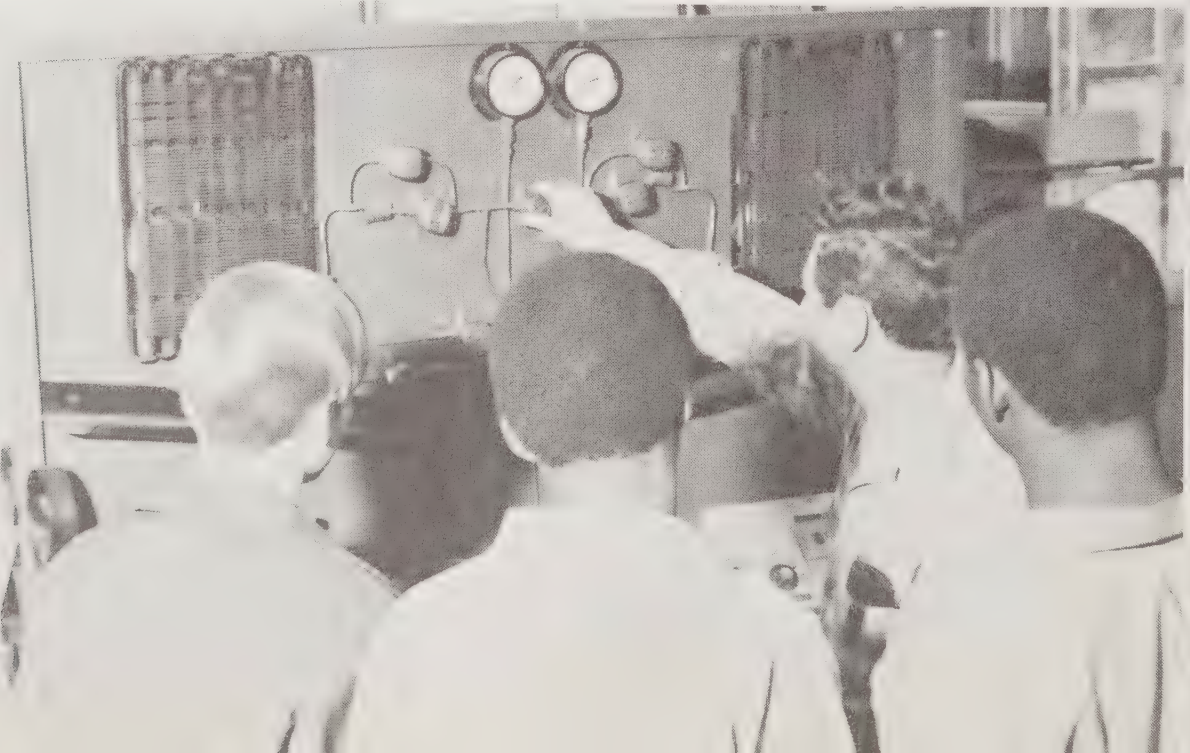




## *WHAT VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS ARE OFFERED?*

*North Carolina Correctional Enterprises offers limited on-the-job training opportunities in sign, license tag, and printing plants located at the prison. The sign plant produces highway signs and other signs for cities and state institutions. The license tag plant trains inmates in the operation of heavy metal-working equipment and in the dexterity required for using these tools for stamping and cutting procedures. In the modern and complete printing plant, trained supervisors instruct inmates in all fields of the graphic arts.*

*The important trade skills inmates develop in these prison industries will give them vocational training and job experience and help them get jobs when they leave prison.*





## WHAT RECREATIONAL FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

East Wing inmates with recreation privileges may use the gymnasium-auditorium where there are facilities and equipment for basketball, weightlifting, pool, table games, etc. Musical instruments are available in a Band Room, and there are several inmate musical groups. Current movies are shown to inmates periodically, and outside entertainment and dramatic groups perform occasionally. West Wing inmates have a recreational yard with weightlifting and sports equipment.

## WHAT TYPES OF COUNSELING DO INMATES RECEIVE?

Psychiatrists and psychologists provide psychological guidance and therapy. Custodial staff members are assigned to counsel individual inmates on their personal problems and difficulties adjusting to prison life. Spiritual guidance is provided by the prison's chaplains who hold regular worship services and other religious programs. An Alcoholics Anonymous Chapter is also available for inmates with drinking problems.



## WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT AT CENTRAL PRISON?

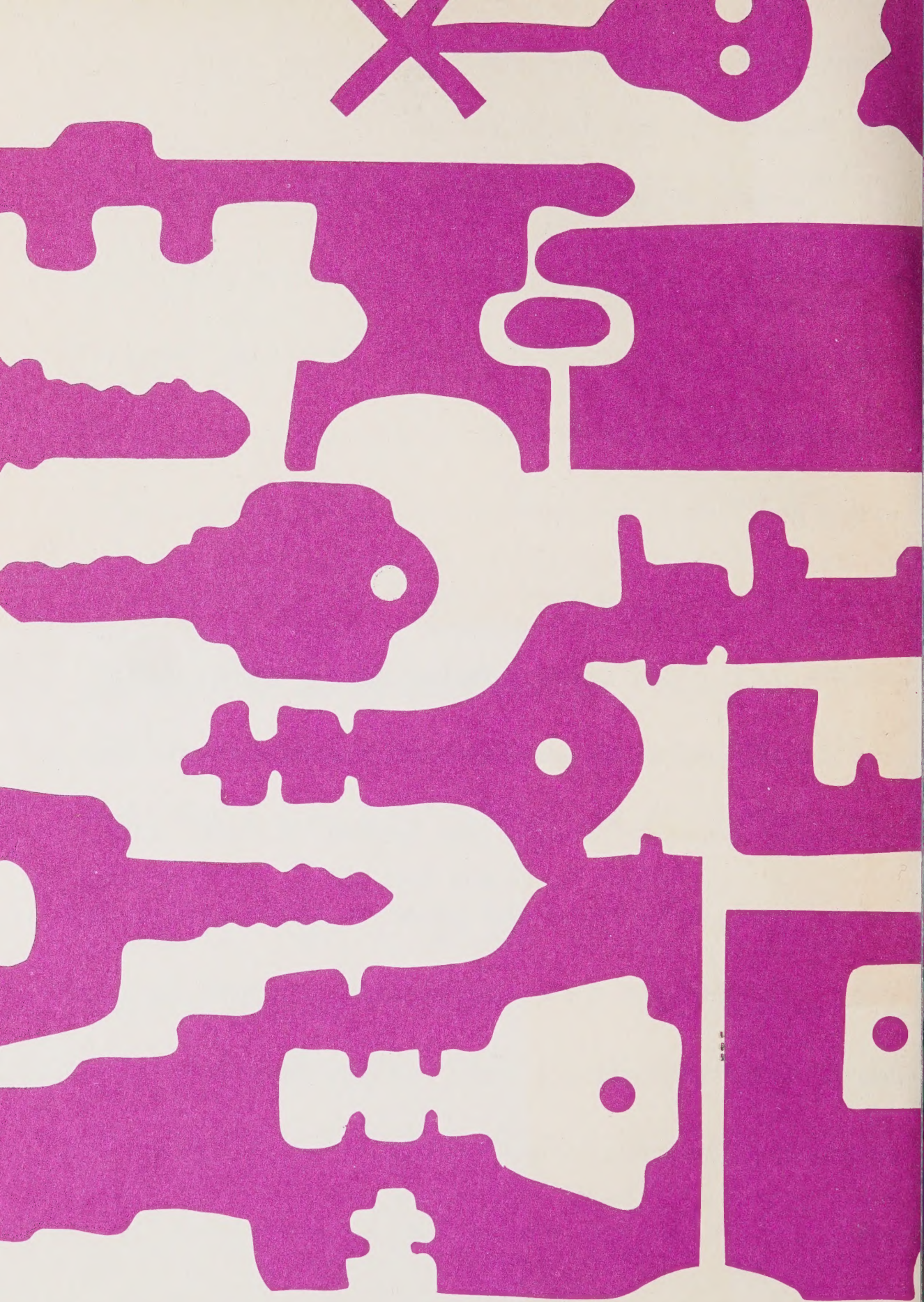
Central Prison is North Carolina's appointed place of execution. Since 1910 when the State took over, from the counties, the task of administering capital punishment, 362 persons have been executed in the Central Prison Death Chamber in the octagonal tower in the center of the East Wing. From 1910 until 1936, electrocution was the official means of execution. With one exception (a man specifically sentenced to die by electrocution), asphyxiation in the gas chamber has been the State's mode of execution since 1936. Between the first execution on March 18, 1910, and the last execution on October 27, 1961, 360 men and two women have been executed for capital crimes. The last execution anywhere in the United States took place June 2, 1967 in Colorado. Since that time, in North Carolina, prisoners sentenced to capital punishment have been housed in Cell Block F, which presently has over 50 occupants. Legislation passed in 1974 by the N. C. General Assembly made only the crimes of first degree murder or first degree rape punishable by death. Prior to this time, crimes committed



involving first degree murder, first degree rape, first degree burglary, and first degree arson were all subject to the death penalty.

Central Prison is a multi-purpose institution, containing a reception center, diagnostic and treatment center, a mental health care facility, hospital, gas chamber, industrial buildings, and various facilities for inmate programs of all types. A guided tour will quickly dispel visitor misconceptions of prison as a place where inmates wear striped suits and a ball and chain, where corporal punishment is the rule, where offenders are locked in dark, damp cells, and where bread and water is their principle diet. Central Prison's facilities, programs, and services provide educational, vocational, and counseling opportunities for inmate self-improvement, fulfilling the Division of Prison's twin goals of protecting the general welfare and returning more useful, productive, and contributing members to the community.





*For further information concerning this publication,  
contact:*

*Public Information Office*

*840 West Morgan St.*

*Raleigh, N.C. 27603*

*Tel: (919) 829-4729*



UNIVERSITY OF N.C. AT CHAPEL HILL



00044630925

FOR USE ONLY IN  
THE NORTH CAROLINA COLLECTION

---



